

AUSTRALIA: Mostly dry weather returned to winter crop areas of Western Australia and the southeast (South Australia, Victoria, and New South Wales). Temperatures averaged near to above normal, with highs reaching the low 30's degrees C in growing districts farthest from the coast. Conditions were mostly favorable for heading to filling winter grains, except for some of the driest locations in Western Australia that needed additional moisture. Winter crop harvesting progressed in southern Queensland, but rain will be needed throughout the region before summer crop planting can begin. In New Zealand, light showers (3-15 mm) covered most agricultural districts. During August, near-normal rainfall benefited vegetative winter crops across much of Western Australia. Monthly rainfall was variable in the east, with pockets of below-normal rainfall in western Victoria, southern Queensland, and northern New South Wales. The dryness in Queensland stressed rainfed grains advancing through reproduction. August temperatures averaged near normal throughout Australia's major winter crop areas, with little, if any, impact due to frost.